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6: Mitchell E-5 (1946-1947) 1949 FT7 Yao FT7

Table V shows that the age-distribution for the Yao sample is very similar to certain other populations commonly held to have high birth-rates. There appears to be some correlation between the proportion of youth in a population and the gross

TABLE V. *Sundbarg's Age Divisions*

Population	Year	Youth 0-15	Middle age 15-49	Old age over 50	G.R.R.
Yao*	1946	474	454	110	..
Yao with allowance	1946	474	474	109	..
Blackfoot	1890	404	477	97	..
Hottentots	1911	419	477	94	..
Cossacks	1926	414	469	93	..
Baltic	1911	389	504	97	..
Japan	1925	369	479	133	2·151
Egypt	1924	374	481	125	1·70
Czechoslovakia	1930	363	513	105	1·18
New Zealand	1926	357	517	113	1·14
Denmark	1930	349	511	122	1·18
Sweden	1930	304	548	128	0·89

* There were 45 in the sample whose ages were not known. These were all adults and have been included proportionately in the two adult groups.

† All data for other populations taken from *The League of Nations Statistical Yearbook 1930-31*.

‡ Interpolated between 1930 (1·095) and 1935 (1·145).

reproduction-rate. Judging from the material presented in Table V a high gross reproduction-rate may be expected among the Yao where the proportion of youth is much higher than in the case of those whose gross reproduction-rates are quoted.

(3) The Proportion of Children under 5 to Women 15-50

Fertility may be judged more accurately than by this trickiness by considering the proportion of children under 5 to the total number of women between the ages of 15 to 50, i.e. the fertility ratio.[1] In the whole sample there were 147 children under 5 and 230 women between the ages of 15 to 50. This is a ratio of 766 children per 1,000 women. However, women who are going away from the area for a long time, as, for example, wives of men who are going with their husbands to some labour centre, possibly in South Africa or Southern Rhodesia, usually leave their weaned children with their matrilineal relatives. This means that the ratio quoted (766 per 1,000) is, in reality, an over-estimate of the true ratio. In order to arrive at a nearer estimate of the ratio we must consider the children actually born to women in the sample. Table VI classifies all children both dead and surviving born to women between the ages 15 to 35. From this table we adduce that there were 191 women between the ages 15 to 50 (for whom details were available), and among them they had 241 surviving children under the age of 5. This is a fertility ratio of 738 per 1,000 women. Table VII shows the fertility ratio for 18 countries with their gross reproduction-rate for the same period as the fertility ratio.

[1] It is more usual to take the number of women between 15 and 44, though recently the age-group between 20 and 49 has been used. I have taken the age-limits 15 to 50 because of the early age of marriage, and because it appeared that the average age of cessation of child-bearing is about 50 (see Table VIII). For a discussion of the reliability of this measure of fertility where birth registration is not practised, see T. Lynn Smith, *Population Analysis*, McGraw Hill Book Co., New York (1948), p. 136.

B.Mitchell E-5 (1946-1947) 1949
[P 159C]
FT? Yao FT?

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